



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Leaders and Higher Education Experts to Address Commission on College Affordability and Improving Performance

SACRAMENTO — March 21, 2008 — Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, San Mateo Community College District Chancellor Ron Galatolo, and College Board researchers Patricia Steele and Kathleen Little will address the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) at its meeting on March 25-26 in Sacramento.

Garamendi will discuss college affordability and student access. He is a member of the Board of Regents of the University of California and Board of Trustees of the California State University. Recently, Garamendi said, “We have seen a dramatic shift in our state’s priorities over the past decade, reducing state funding for higher education and balancing the state’s budget on the backs of our students. Sadly, this path takes our state in the wrong direction — creeping down the road to privatization by shifting the cost of higher education from the public at large to students and their families.”

Brownley, Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, will provide an update on the proposed budgets for public higher education, as well as her views on the Commission’s priority issues for improving performance, the nexus between postsecondary education and workforce development, and college affordability. “CPEC’s meeting comes at a critical junction where we as Californians must decide what our priorities should be for the future of this great State,” Brownley said. “If we believe that higher education in California needs to provide a quality education to prepare the next generation for the enormous challenges of the 21st century, then we must invest more in our university systems and our community colleges. California’s future depends on the priorities we set today.”

Galatolo will talk about his vision and goals for postsecondary education and the creative and innovative approaches used by his District to improve performance and student achievement.

Steele and Little will present two recent College Board publications on student aid and the benefits of higher education for individuals and society. They will also discuss how college affordability affects college going.

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The Commission will hold its quarterly meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25-26 at 770 L Street, Suite 1160, Sacramento.

A meeting agenda and reports may be viewed on the Commission's website:

<http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/agnd0803.asp>.

The Commission audio streams its meetings: <http://media.cpec.ca.gov/media>.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.